

Youth Bias Task Force's Recommendations for Change



New Jersey's Interagency Task Force to Combat Youth Bias has conducted extensive research into the root causes of increased bias activity among New Jersey youth and, in a report being issued today, makes the following 27 recommendations to counter the trend:

Education

- 1.** Require comprehensive anti-bias education in public schools and develop curricular support materials
- 2.** Require anti-bias training for educators and school employees
- 3.** Address discrimination in the imposition of school discipline
- 4.** Study potential changes to reduce disparities in criminal justice referrals
- 5.** Reduce racial disparities in identification of academically advanced students and identification and placement of students with disabilities
- 6.** Take meaningful measures to diversify educator hiring at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels
- 7.** Require anti-bias training for student athletes
- 8.** Fund programs for student-led anti-bias programming and coordinate best practices
- 9.** Encourage K-12 districts to designate a chief equity officer
- 10.** Require anti-bias policies in colleges & universities
- 11.** Encourage public and private postsecondary institutions to hire or designate a chief equity officer
- 12.** Ensure that juveniles in state custody receive the same anti-bias programming as students in other schools
- 13.** Publish resources for schools, colleges, and universities responding to a bias incident

Enforcement

- 14.** Improve eUCR bias incident data collection and public access to data
- 15.** Make it easier for NJ residents to report bias incidents to the Attorney General's Office
- 16.** Continue aggressive criminal and civil enforcement of NJ's bias laws
- 17.** Strengthen the State's hate crime law
- 18.** Strengthen the civil and criminal remedies available to victims of bias-motivated conduct
- 19.** Hold accountable those who weaponize the internet to harm others
- 20.** Mandate completion of anti-bias education program for juvenile bias crime offenders
- 21.** Expand law enforcement training on cyberhate investigations and domestic extremism
- 22.** Consider investigations related to social media platforms
- 23.** Study potential amendments to Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act

Engagement

- 24.** Call out public figures who use hateful rhetoric
- 25.** Launch a statewide campaign to stand up to hate in New Jersey
- 26.** Implement the plan to establish an incident response team within the Division on Civil Rights
- 27.** Create resource guides to educate parents, guardians, and educators about how to talk to children about avoiding hate on the internet and how to recognize signs of radicalization